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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Partnership's Dog Park Set To Open January 4th

The Herndon Town Council, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Park Authority and Herndon Dogs, Inc. (HDI) can all share in the credit when the county's fifth off-leash dog exercise area opens its gates on Saturday, January 4, 2003. The official "leash cutting" ceremonies are set for 10:30 a.m., rain or shine. This facility is located in Chandon Park at 900 Palmer Drive, in Herndon.

This facility is approximately 30,000 square feet and located in the 7.9-acre community park. It can accommodate 42 dogs at a time, with a facility for big dogs and a smaller, separate area for little dogs. Funding for the park was raised by HDI and also provided by the Herndon Town Council and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). Total costs of the facility were \$14,149.10 with the sponsor group providing half of that amount and the remainder funded by a Mastenbrook matching funds grant. The adjacent parking lot improvements were paid for by the Herndon Town Council and totaled approximately \$36,000.

HDI, an all-volunteer advocacy group consisting of dog owners in the Herndon area, first petitioned the Town of Herndon for a dog park in June 2000. The Herndon Town Council staff found that Chandon Park was the most suitable location for the park. A public hearing was held by the town in February 2002 and nearly two dozen speakers spoke in favor of the suggested use. The Park Authority held a public hearing on April 11, 2002, at which Chandon Park Master Plan Revisions were discussed. The FCPA approved those revisions on June 26, 2002. The president of HDI is Nancy Despeaux who can be reached at 703-989-6939.

Other individuals instrumental in the success of this project include:

- Fairfax County Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn, 703-356-0551
- Richard C. Thoesen, Mayor, Town of Herndon, who can be reached through the Park Authority PIO or via Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

For more information or details about the opening, please contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION IN ALL COUNTY PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AND WILL PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS UPON REQUEST. TO REQUEST SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS, CALL 703-324-8563 OR TTY-703-324-3988. PLEASE ALLOW SEVEN WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE OF EVENTS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.



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